

making about 1,000 hogsheads of sugar, are to be comprised within the sphere of the company's operations. The proposed capital is £40,000, in 800 shares of £50 each. One third of this capital had been subscribed for by proprietors, and other parties resident in the immediate neighbourhood, and the remainder was offered to the public.

A mail coach company had also been formed, with a very strong provisional committee, to run between Kingston and Lucia. Four-horse carriages were to run across the island twice a week. A capital—£10,000, in £10 shares—was to be raised for the purpose.

The Legislature had offered premiums of £50 for the best treatise on the agriculture and statistics of each parish, a most laudable step which we should be glad to see followed in other colonies, as the competition will necessarily draw forth many valuable essays on the indigenous resources, tropical products, and progress made by different localities in the Colony.

The suggestions thrown out as to the information most desired, may be useful in other quarters, and we therefore extract it:—"With regard, in the first place, to those parishes containing large towns, say Kingston, St. Catherine, St. James, Trelawny, &c., it will be highly desirable to obtain correct information as to the increase or decrease of the population therein, distinguishing the males from the females, and of the latter especially, those above 12 and under 25 years of age; also the sanatory condition of the inhabitants generally, specifying the diseases most prevalent in town and country, and the proportion which the births bear to the deaths and marriages. Next, every endeavour should be made to ascertain whether civilisation and its concomitant industry are progressing or otherwise; and particularly in how far the means of instruction already afforded are being used by the population at large; so that the necessary data may be obtained, if possible, for guiding the legislature in its future dealings with the education question. Furthermore, it is to be hoped that considerable attention will be devoted to the draining of towns; the evils attendant upon the neglect thereof, and the great advantages, both in a sanatory and pecuniary point of view, from a judicious reform in this respect.

For our agricultural parishes again, the points on which information is particularly required, are—1st, the number of acres of arable land in each—distinguishing that adapted for cultivation by the plough, and that by manual labour; 2ndly, the quantity in cane, coffee, provisions, &c.; 3rdly, the average return of each per acre; 4thly, the number of labourers, in whole or in part, engaged in these respective branches of cultivation; and 5thly, the general character of the soil and situation of each district—the distance and height from the sea—its facilities for draining and irrigation—tram-roads, canals, central factories, &c. &c. Information upon these several heads, we have little doubt, would lead to the most favourable results; and we therefore hope, now that the question is being stirred among us, that every effort will be made by the various parties engaged therein to render their productions worthy of the cause."

We make the following extract from the packet summary of the *Jamaica Times*:—"We suspect it requires no voice from Jamaica to inform any party at home, interested in West India property, of the difficulties by which we continue to be surrounded, both in a commercial and agricultural point of view. With each succeeding packet bringing accounts of our produce falling in price, in consequence of the already rapidly increasing supply from foreign countries, we, at the same time, find our articles of food driven up even far beyond the famine price in England; while our difficulty of meeting this increased drain upon our resources is enhanced by the impossibility of either selling or shipping our produce, joined to the almost total cessation of discount accommodation at the several banks. Still, as it has never been the practice of the Jamaica Colonist to despair—however frequently and loudly he has had occasion to remonstrate, it cannot fail to be perceived by even the most casual observer of passing events, that every effort is being made, so far as local energy and means will permit, to meet our altered circumstances. To effect this, we must be able to cultivate and manufacture cheaply; and, to be enabled to do so, we must have a sufficiency of labour, food at a moderate cost, machinery of the best description to manufacture our produce, and tramroads to